

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 SCS-03

SCA-01 CPR-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /067 W

-----201453Z 115504 /47

O 201310Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1626

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ACCRA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY COTONOU NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L L O M E 0 1 6 8

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, AMER, DM

SUBJECT: COTONOU SITREP 1200Z: EMBASSY SAYS DAVIS CASE

HAS APPARENTLY BECOME "AFFAIR OF STATE"

CHARGE LASOR CALLED ME AT 1200Z. HE ASKED THAT
FOLLOWING MESSAGE BE SENT:

BEGIN MESSAGE

1. HAVE COME UP AGAINST BRICK WALL. VICE CONSUL AND
CHARGE CALLED ON DIRECTOR OF STATE POLICE, WHO
RECEIVED THEM IN THE PARKING LOT AND TOLD THEM EVEN
IF THEY COULD GET NOTE FROM MFA REGARDING DAVIS,
DIRECTOR OF POLICE IS POWERLESS TO ACT BECAUSE HE
IS ONLY COMMISSION MEMBER ON A COMMISSION FORMED BY
THE PRESIDENT.

2. CHARGED ASKED HIM "DOES THIS MEAN THAT RELEASING
DAVIS IS QUESTION OF GETTING PERMISSION FROM THE
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PRESIDENT?" HE SAID "YES". CHARGE THEN SAID
THAT MAKES IT A MATTER OF STATE - A PRESIDENT
TO PRESIDENT AFFAIR - AT WHICH POINT DIRECTOR
OF STATE POLICE BEGAN TO HESITATE AND BACKPEDAL.

3. MFA HAS DRAFTED NOTE REGARDING DAVIS TO BE
SENT TO COMMISSION OF INQUIRY. NOTE IS NOW

AWAITING SIGNATURE OF DIRECTOR GENERAL OF MFA
AND CHARGE IS URGENTLY AGAIN TRYING TO SEE MFA.

4. CHARGE TOLD DIRECTOR OF STATE POLICE THAT
SUCH NOTE WOULD BE FORTHCOMING TODAY AND DIRECTOR
SAID A NOTE FROM THE MFA TO HIM AS CHAIRMAN OF
THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY WOULD BE OF NO USE
REPEAT WOULD BE OF NO USE BECAUSE DAVIS CASE
OUT OF HIS HANDS.

5. CHARGE TRIED TO PIN DOWN DIRECTOR OF STATE
POLICE AND GET HIM TO SAY IN UNQUALIFIED MANNER
THAT THIS WAS AFFAIR OF STATE. DIRECTOR BEGAN
AGAIN TO BACKPEDAL. DIRECTOR OF STATE POLICE
FINALLY SAID CHARGE SHOULD SEE THE MINISTER OF
THE INTERIOR OR THE PRESIDENT.

6. DIRECTOR OF PROTOCOL OF MFA IS CURRENTLY
IN MEETING WITH DIRGEN MFA RE DAVIS CASE.
CHARGE HAS REQUESTED APPOINTMENT WITH HIM ASAP -
WILL ALSO ASK FOR APPOINTMENT WITH MINISTER OF INTERIOR
TODAY (NOTE: HE HAS BEEN TRYING TO SEE MIN OF
INTERIOR OFFICIALLY FOR 18 MONTHS, WITHOUT SUCCESS.)
END MESSAGE

7. I ASKED CHARGE IF EMBASSY HAD ANY CONTACT
WITH MILITARY AT THIS POINT. CHARGE'S REPLY WAS
"ABSOLUTELY NEGATIVE, REPEAT ABSOLUTELY NEGATIVE."
REGARDING PROBLEM OF TWO HEADS (BIFURCATED GOVERN-
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MENT, COTONOU 144) -- EMBASSY COTONOU
PRESENTLY HAS ABSOLUTELY ZERO CONTACTS WITH
SECOND HEAD.

8. I ASKED CHARGE ABOUT EMBASSY LOME CONTACT
WHO KNOWS COL. OHOUENS, REPORTEDLY NO. 2 IN
GPRB, AND HAS OFFERED TO INTERCEDE WITH HIM ON
BEHALF DAVIS. CHARGE SAID "GO AHEAD-ANYTHING
IS WORTH A TRY." CHARGE SAID COL. OHOUENS "HAS
EAR OF KEREKOU - MAY JUST GET SOME RESULTS -
ANYTHING IS WORTH TRYING." CHARGE CAUTIONED,
HOWEVER, RE OHOUENS "EVERYBODY'S DUMPING
MONEY IN THAT BANK."

9. COMMENT: OUR CONTACT IS EMIL NASR, AN
INTIMATE OF PRES. EYADEMA. NASR IS LONGTIME
RESIDENT TOGO AND HAS WIDE NET OF BUSINESS
AND SOCIAL CONTACTS IN TOGO AND BENIN. WHILE
WELL-CONNECTED, HE IS CONTROVERSIAL. HIS

INFORMATION HAS OFTEN PROVED RELIABLE.

10. REQUEST DEPT. COMMENTS/CONCURRENCE.

11. SHOULD DEPT. CONCUR THIS COURSE OF ACTION, EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT PRESIDENT EYADEMA BE INFORMED OUR DILEMMA RE DAVIS, ALONG WITH PROPOSED USE NASR CHANNEL. THIS WOULD HAVE BENEFIT OF PREVENTING LOCAL MISUNDERSTANDING.

CONCEIVABLY, EYADEMA MIGHT OFFER TO INTERCEDE HIMSELF WITH KEREKOU - EVEN THOUGH RELATIONS THESE TWO OFTEN STRAINED.

12. REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS FOR LATTER CONTINGENCY. PALMER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WELFARE & WHEREABOUTS, EMERGENCY PLANNING, ARRESTS, FOREIGN SERVICE STAFF EMPLOYEES, POLICE FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770021-0881
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From: LOME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 63ed07d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Date: 29-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: COTONOU SITREP 1200Z: EMBASSY SAYS DAVIS CASE HAS APPARENTLY BECOME "AFFAIR OF STATE" CHARGE LASOR CALLED ME AT 1200Z. HE ASKED THAT
TAGS: CASC, AEMR, PFOR, DM, (DAVIS, JOHN), (NASR, EMIL)
To: STATE ABIDJAN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/63ed07d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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